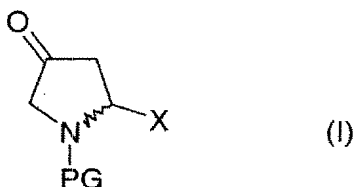


Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims as shown below in the Listing of Claims.

Listing of Claims

- 1-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) A process for preparing N-protected 4-ketoproline ~~derivatives~~ compounds of ~~the general~~ formula (I):



in which

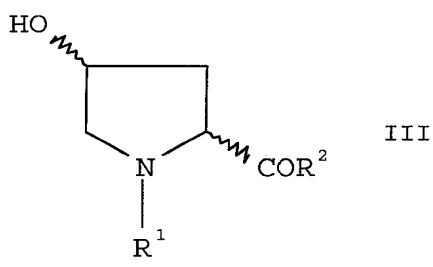
X is an acid, ester or amide function,

PG is an N-protective group which comprises a carbonyl function and is bonded via this function to the nitrogen,

said process comprising oxidizing a 4-hydroxyproline compound with an oxidizing agent in the presence of catalytically active ruthenium compounds,

wherein the oxidation is carried out in an aqueous one-phase system, and the oxidation product (I) is ~~allowed~~ induced to crystallize out during the addition of said oxidizing agent.

6. (Currently amended) The process of claim 5, wherein ~~the temperature during the oxidation is kept at $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$~~ said hydroxyproline compound is a compound of formula (III):



in which

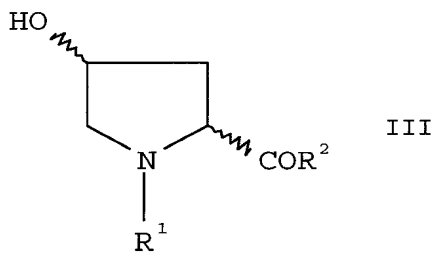
R¹ is CO-R³ or fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl,

R² is NH₂, or OR⁴,

R³ is (H), (C₁-C₈)-alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, benzyloxy, NH₂, NO₂-phenyloxy, NO₂-benzyloxy, (C₁-C₈)-alkoxy or phenyloxy,

R⁴ is H, (C₁-C₈)-alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, NO₂-benzyl, or NO₂-phenyl.

7. (Currently amended) The process of claim 5, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ~~≤20~~ 30°C.
8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤15°C.
9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein said oxidizing agent is a hypohalite, halate or perhalate salt.
10. (Currently amended) The process of claim 9, wherein ~~the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤30°C~~ said hydroxyproline compound is a compound of formula (III):



in which

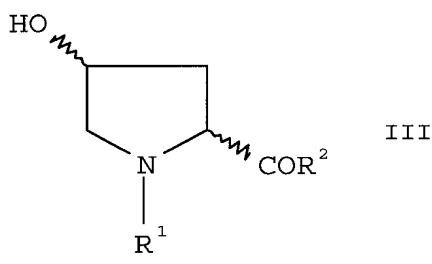
R¹ is CO-R³ or fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl,

R² is NH₂, or OR⁴,

R³ is (H), (C₁-C₈)-alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, benzyloxy, NH₂, NO₂-phenyloxy, NO₂-benzyloxy, (C₁-C₈)-alkoxy or phenyloxy,

R⁴ is H, (C₁-C₈)-alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, NO₂-benzyl, or NO₂-phenyl.

11. (Currently amended) The process of claim 9, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ~~≤20~~ 30°C.
12. (Previously presented) The process of claim 9, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤15°C.
13. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein seed crystals are added to the reaction mixture after addition of 50% of said oxidizing agent.
14. (Currently amended) The process of claim 13, wherein ~~the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤30°C~~ said hydroxyproline compound is a compound of formula (III):



in which

R¹ is CO-R³ or fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl,

R² is NH₂, or OR⁴,

R³ is (H), (C₁-C₈)-alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, benzyloxy, NH₂, NO₂-phenyloxy, NO₂-benzyloxy, (C₁-C₈)-alkoxy or phenyloxy,

R⁴ is H, (C₁-C₈)-alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, NO₂-benzyl, or NO₂-phenyl.

15. (Currently amended) The process of claim 13, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ~~≤20~~ 30°C.
16. (Previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤15°C.
17. (Previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein said oxidizing agent is a hypohalite, halate or perhalate salt.
18. (Previously presented) The process of claim 17, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤30°C.
19. (Previously presented) The process of claim 17, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤20°C.
20. (Previously presented) The process of claim 17, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤15°C.
21. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein said oxidizing agent is sodium periodate and wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤30°C.
22. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein the oxidation takes place in a purely aqueous solvent and the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤30°C.
23. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein said aqueous solvent also includes a water-soluble organic solvent and the temperature during the oxidation is kept at ≤30°C.
24. (Previously presented) The process of claim 23, wherein said oxidizing agent is sodium periodate.